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9 November 1955

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Minutes of meeting of
The Commission of Fine Arts
9 November 1955

The Commission met pursuant to notice at 9:30 a.m., with David E. Finley, Chairman, presiding.

Present were: David E. Finley Mrs. Emily Muir
 Elbert Peets Douglas W. Orr
 Felix de Weldon William G. Perry

L. R. Wilson, Secretary

Minutes of previous meetings

The Secretary reported that the minutes were in draft form and would be distributed as soon as typed.

Date of next meeting

The 8th of December was fixed for the next meeting of the Commission.

New Executive Order for the Commission of Fine Arts

The Secretary reported the progress on drafting a new executive order for the Commission of Fine Arts. He said that officials in the Solicitor's Office of the Interior Department were studying the previous orders and were assisting him in the preparation of the text for a new order. It was hoped that a draft would be ready by the time of the next meeting.

Commission of Fine Arts Budget for Fiscal Year 1957

The Chairman advised the members that the Bureau of the Budget had approved the Commission's budget estimates of \$31,000 for fiscal year 1957. He added that this sum must now be approved by the Congress.

Submissions:

Smithsonian Institution

National Air Museum - status

Dr. Leonard Carmichael, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. John E. Graf and Dr. J. L. Keddy, assistant secretaries, appeared before the Commission to give a brief history of the Smithsonian's plan to erect a building for the National Air Museum, on the south side of Independence Avenue, between 12th Street and 9th Street, with the central axis on 10th Street, S. W. The New York architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White was employed and had prepared elaborate studies for the proposed museum at the indicated site.

When the Webb and Knapp plan for the redevelopment of Area C in Southwest Washington was introduced, it was apparent that development of the proposed Tenth Street Mall would conflict with the use of the selected location for the proposed National Air Museum. Architects for

Webb and Knapp, and McKim, Mead and White studied the problem jointly, in an effort to resolve the overlapping problems, but no satisfactory solution was reached. The members expressed grave concern over having to move the site of the air museum. They thought it would be very difficult to find another location which would be as suitable. They also stated that they felt serious consideration should be given to putting the railroads underground; and that Maryland Avenue, one of the great avenues of the L'Enfant Plan, should not be closed.

District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency -

Southwest Redevelopment Plans for Area C

Mr. George Garrett, Presidential Advisor on the redevelopment of Southwest Washington appeared before the Commission, at his own request, to ask support for the plans proposed by Webb and Knapp for the Redevelopment Land Agency. He stated that the plan had met with the general approval of businessmen, newspapers, other interested organizations, and many citizens, who hoped very much it could be developed without delay. He pointed out that unless the proposed air museum were moved to another site than the one selected by the Smithsonian, Webb and Knapp felt compelled to withdraw from the project, because they believed that, without the open vista at Independence Avenue, the Tenth Street Mall and its commercial center could not be developed as planned. Mr. Garrett proposed that the air museum be put on a site further to the east on Independence Avenue, where the closing of Maryland Avenue and Sixth Street, S. W. would be required. This the members were not in favor of doing. In the opinion of the Commission, further study was required on the part of both the Smithsonian Institution, the Redevelopment Land Agency, and the National Capital Planning Commission.

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Highways and Traffic

Constitution Avenue Bridge

Messrs. Robertson, Brinkley, and Sawyer of the Department of Highways and Traffic accompanied by Mr. Masters, Engineer, and Mr. Hough and Mr. Livingston, architects, conferred with the Commission. They presented two alternate designs for the proposed bridge near Constitution Avenue. The scale drawings showed a masonry type bridge, and a steel bridge, both designed to cross the southern part of Roosevelt Island. The architectural features of both designs were discussed; also the approach roads and the problem of providing pedestrian access to Theodore Roosevelt Island from the bridge. Mr. Hermann Hagedorn spoke on these matters for the Theodore Roosevelt Association. During the discussion, the Chairman read a letter from General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Commandant of the Marine Corps, expressing concern that the proposed approach roads, on the Virginia side of the river, would greatly obstruct the view of the Marine Corps Memorial from the District side of the river. The members felt that there were too many problems still unsolved for them to take action, and they took the matter under advisement, asking that further study be given to both the design of the bridge and the approach roads, in line with ideas suggested during the discussion. Exhibits A and A-1.

Department of the Interior-National Park Service (National Capital Parks)
First Infantry Division Memorial. World War II Addition

Colonel William E. Shepherd, Mr. Cass Gilbert, jr., architect, and Major General Clift Andrus appeared before the Commission and presented plans and drawings for a proposed addition to the First Infantry Division Memorial to commemorate World War II and Korea. It was proposed that the addition be located to the west of the present monument in accordance with the drawings presented. The members approved the drawings in general. Exhibit B.

District of Columbia Auditorium Commission

Site for District of Columbia Auditorium - Discussion

Miss Elizabeth Howry and Mr. George L. Williams, member and Secretary respectively of the District of Columbia Auditorium Commission met, at their request, with the members of the Commission of Fine Arts to discuss in general, the selection of a site for the proposed Auditorium. The advantages and disadvantages of a number of locations were considered, including the area opposite the D. C. Armory, Independence Avenue between 4th and 7th Streets, S. W., etc. The talks were exploratory, and the Commission offered to discuss the matter again when the plans were more definite.

Smithsonian Institution

Site for statue by Hermann Blumenthal

Mr. Merle Sager of the National Capital Parks was invited to appear before the Commission with reference to finding a site for a small statue, entitled "Laboring Youth", which was a gift from the people of Germany to the people of the United States and now standing in the Constitution Avenue lobby of the National Museum. A suggestion was made to place the statue in the small park directly east of the Department of State: also at Wisconsin Avenue and R Street, N. W. in Georgetown. Mr. Sager also suggested the possibility of closing D Street, making the triangle at 19th and D Streets into a park where the statue might go. He said that, being a small nude statue, he thought it would be better to place it inside a building where it would not be so likely to be the subject of vandalism! It was agreed that none of the sites suggested was desirable, and that a further efforts would be made to find a site, either in a public building, or in the courtyard of a public building.

District of Columbia Government

Department of Buildings and Grounds

Garfield School Building-addition

The Secretary presented drawings and plans, submitted by the municipal architect, for a proposed addition to Garfield School building at 25th Street and Alabama Avenue, Southeast. The members considered the design satisfactory and approved the drawings as presented. Exhibit C.

Ambassador of Venezuela
Simon Bolivar Memorial

At the request of the sculptor member of the Commission, Mr. de Weldon, the members reviewed photographs of his model of the heroic-size equestrian statue of Simon Bolivar, which the Government of Venezuela is presenting, with its setting, to the United States. The members expressed their approval of Mr. de Weldon's model and stated they believed it to be a fitting memorial to Simon Bolivar. A letter was sent to the Ambassador of Venezuela expressing the Commission's views. Exhibit D.

General Services Administration

The Great Plaza, Federal Triangle-landscaping

The Chairman read a letter from Edmund F. Mansure, replying to the letter which the Chairman had written him recommending action to landscape and develop the Great Plaza as a park. Mr. Mansure indicated that funds would be requested from Congress for the work. The Chairman also read a letter which he had written to the Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission asking to review the plans which that Commission had worked out for developing the Great Plaza. Exhibits E, E-1 and E-2.

Post Office Department

Andrew W. Mellon Commemorative Stamp

The Chairman told the members that he had received a telephone call from Assistant Postmaster General, Albert J. Robertson, who stated that the Department had been authorized to issue a special stamp in honor of Andrew W. Mellon, former Secretary of the Treasury and Ambassador to England for release on December 20, 1955. The Chairman advised Mr. Robertson that the stamp be engraved from the portrait of Mr. Mellon by Oswald Birley. The members expressed their pleasure that this honor was being accorded Mr. Mellon, the donor of the National Gallery of Art, during the one hundredth anniversary year of his birth.

National Academy of Design

Advisory Council on Postage Stamps.- status.

The Chairman read a letter from Mr. Lawrence Grant White, President of the National Academy of Design, dated October 31, 1955, with reference to gaining official status for the Advisory Committee on Stamp Design, appointed by the National Academy of Design. Mr. White stated that he would like to have work of the Committee officially recognized by the Post Office Department, or, if this is not feasible, by the Commission of Fine Arts. The members discussed this matter and concluded that there was no way in which an advisory committee composed of members from one organization could be given permanent official status. The Chairman was asked to explain the position of the Commission to Mr. White. Exhibits F, F-1, and F-2.

District of Columbia Government-Preliminary Shipstead Luce submissions.
Veterans of Foreign Wars-Headquarters Building

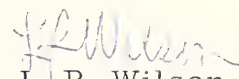
Mr. William Holabird, architect, presented and explained the preliminary drawings which his office had made for a proposed headquarters building for the Veterans of Foreign Wars at 315-327 First Street, Northeast, facing the Capitol Grounds. The design of the building was approved in general, but the members recommended that studies be made to raise the height of the first floor to give the building more monumentality. Restudy of the retaining wall and planting features in front of the building was also recommended. Mr. Holabird said that he would study the recommendations. Exhibit G.

Proposed Office Building for the American Security and Trust Company

Mr. Mills and Mr. Petticord, architects, presented plans and drawings for a tall office building to replace the lower monumental headquarters building of the American Security and Trust Company at 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest. After studying the drawings and discussing the architectural features with the architects, the members stated that they would be reluctant to see the present building replaced, and that the new design was not suitable for that important location opposite the Treasury Department and near the White House. They felt a taller building would be a disrupting element in a group of lower buildings. The architects thanked the Commission and said they would discuss the Commission's opinion with the Bank officials.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


L. R. Wilson
Secretary

361814 176

HEADQUARTERS OF THE MARINE CORPS

Washington, D. C.

November 1943

November 1943

Dear Mr. Winley,

It has been brought to my attention that the National Capital Planning Commission has approved certain plans for the proposed Constitution Avenue Bridge, which plans are a source of grave concern to me. I refer specifically to the proposed bridge overpass to be constructed as the bridge approach on the Virginia side of the Potomac River & such a structure is to completely obstruct the view of the Marine Corps War Memorial from the District side of the river as well as spoil the presently beautiful panorama of the city from the Memorial site itself.

The proposed construction, of course, would do irreparable harm to the Marine Memorial itself which, you may be interested to know, has, according to Department of Interior figures, become the second most frequently visited memorial in our Nation's capital.

It is my understanding that the proposed bridge overpass which would reach a height of approximately seven feet at its highest point, would be located directly between the Marine Corps War Memorial and a direct view of the city as, in fact, it would be obstructing directly since it would be a permanent and available structure for the construction of future buildings which would spoil the view of the city from the Memorial site itself.

REC-100
THE COMMANDER
WASHINGTON, D. C.

I am sending you my best wishes with the hope that
your good efforts in the work to which is to be presented
to your Commission may be successful.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Stephen

LESLIE C. STEPHEN, JR.
Admiral, U. S. Marine Corps
Commissioner of the Marine Corps

Mr. David P. King, Chairman
Commission on the
Marine Corps
Washington, D. C.

December 21, 1955

Dear General Shepherd:

At meetings held on 9 November, and 8-9 December 1955, the members of the Commission of Fine Arts carefully reviewed the problems raised in your letter of 7 November 1955, regarding the impingement of the Virginia approaches to the proposed Constitution Avenue Bridge on the grounds and aspects of the Marine Corps War Memorial. We were glad to have your views, and copies of your letter were forwarded for comment to the District of Columbia Highway Engineer, who has made special studies in an attempt to find a solution of roadways which will not harm the views of the Marine Memorial or the views of the river and the city from its grounds. Such a solution has not yet been realized.

The Commission of Fine Arts has always insisted that the location of any bridge, with its network of interchanges, in the area north of the Memorial Bridge will result in total sacrifice of the carefully projected and unrivaled vistas that exist there on both sides of the river. Nevertheless, a bridge was authorized between the Memorial Bridge and Theodore Roosevelt Island. In order to move the bridge northward from this most disastrous location, the Theodore Roosevelt Association has generously consented to the bridge's crossing the southern tip of the Island, and the Commission of Fine Arts has been forced to adopt the position of trying to work out, in cooperation with all the agencies involved, the least harmful solution for the bridge and its approaches that, in the Commission's judgment, can be achieved.

As you approach the day when you will retire from your high office, please be assured that no effort will be left unexpended on our part to preserve the aesthetic factors that now contribute so superbly to this shrine-center in the Nation's Capital. We will be happy to cooperate with your successor in this matter.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr.
Commandant of the Marine Corps
U. S. Marine Corps Headquarters
Washington, D. C.

cc: Lt. Gen. Randolph McC. Pate
U. S. Marine Corps Headquarters

Exhibit A-1

7 December 1955

Colonel William E. Shepherd, Agent
Society of the First Division
1511 - 33rd Street, N. W.
Washington 7, D. C.

Dear Colonel Shepherd:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts were happy to meet with you, Mr. Cass Gilbert, Jr., and Major General Clift Andrus, at the meeting of the Commission on 9 November 1955, and to discuss the revised sketches for a World War II addition to the First Division Monument. The Commission approved in general your drawings, locating the memorial to the west side of the present monument, and leaving the east side open for possible future expansion.

The Commission will be happy to consider further developments in your plans for the memorial as they occur.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

Copies to:

Director, National Capital Planning Commission
Director, National Park Service
Associate Superintendent, National Capital Parks

November 30, 1955

Mr. Merrel A. Coe
D. C. Supervising Architect
Dept. of Buildings and Grounds
300 Indiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Mr. Coe:

At a meeting on 9 November 1955, the Commission of Fine Arts considered the preliminary plans which you submitted for a proposed addition to Garfield Elementary School, located at 25th Street and Alabama Avenue, Southeast.

The Commission approved the design.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

10 November 1955

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

At a meeting on 9 November 1955, the Commission of Fine Arts was happy to inspect the photographs of Mr. Felix W. de Weldon's heroic-size model of the equestrian statue of the great South American liberator, Simon Bolivar, which the Government of Venezuela has generously offered to present as a token of friendship to the Government of the United States, and which Public Law 109-84th Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior to accept on behalf of the United States. The members of the Commission were highly pleased with the model and felt that it is an excellent memorial to Bolivar and admirably fulfills the high purpose motivating the gift.

The Commission has previously approved as a site for the monument the Triangle bounded by Virginia Avenue, Eighteenth and C Streets, N. W., adjacent to the Pan American Union Building and the Department of the Interior. The Commission reaffirmed this site as a most suitable location for the monument.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

His Excellency
Dr. Cesar Gonzalez
Ambassador of Venezuela
2445 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

4 October 1918

Dear Mr. Harbord:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts were moved with satisfaction the recent action the General Services Administration is taking in regard to removing some of the temporary war buildings that have so long marred certain monumental areas of the Nation's Capital. They hope your efforts will not cease until all the obtrusive structures which detracted from the planned appearance of the city will have been demolished.

In this connection, the members of the Commission are concerned that the Great Plaza fronting Fourteenth Street in the Federal Triangle has been used for so long for a purpose other than that for which it was originally intended--a beautiful public plaza.

To this end they adopted the following resolution:

For almost twenty years now the Great Plaza adjacent to the Commerce, Labor, and Post Office Department buildings has been as a blighted outdoor garage in the very heart of the Nation's Capital almost at the foot of the Washington Monument. Numerous proposals to landscape the area have been made but have not been carried out in spite of the support of two former Presidents of the United States. As an undeveloped area, the General Services Administration continues to lease the Great Plaza to a private concern for car-parking purposes. The members of the Commission of Fine Arts consider the use of such government park space as in the highest degree inappropriate and have today unanimously resolved to recommend to the General Services Administration that efforts be renewed to develop parking facilities elsewhere and carry out plans to reclaim the Great Plaza and to complete it in harmony with the Strauss Memorial Fountain and the architecture of the surrounding buildings.

Copies of this letter and resolution are being forwarded to the President, and to the National Capital Planning Commission, and the National Park Service, in the hope that we can complete the work, so often interrupted, of developing the Great Plaza as originally planned.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David S. Vixiey
Chairman

Mr. Edward F. Harbord, Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

Exhibit E

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Washington 25, D. C.

October 25, 1955

OCT 27 1955

NOTED

Dear Mr. Finley:

Re: Parking Adjacent to Great Plaza

Thank you for your letter of the 6th, and appreciate very much your comments regarding the situation. The Great Plaza has been given much thought by GSA and preliminary plans for its development were prepared some years ago. This development will probably be a part of the building plan for Washington to be submitted by GSA to the Congress in January.

We recognize and accept the desirable aims proposed by The Commission of Fine Arts, but sometimes these must give way to more practical considerations. First, the public transportation system provides only for about 60% or less of the population using this area; second, there is increasing dissatisfaction with public transportation; third, through numerous car pools Government employees have built up a private transportation system requiring adequate parking space; and fourth, to disrupt this private system would throw a burden on the public system which it cannot absorb.

With reference to your Commission's recommendation "to develop parking facilities elsewhere," we are faced in the Triangle Area with the most serious lack of parking facilities in Washington. There are no possibilities in the intensely occupied business district to the north, and both the Ellipse and the Mall are considered sacrosanct. We are in effect completely hemmed in.

We propose that parking facilities be planned for the Great Plaza in the maximum amount possible consistent with reasonable cost. Plans should include provision for landscaping the area to make it as attractive and beautiful as possible. We are sure this can be done cleverly and pleasingly, never perhaps to the full satisfaction of the Commission, but completely satisfactory to other needs.

Cordially yours,

Edmund F. Masaura

The Honorable David E. Finley
Chairman, The Commission of Fine Arts
Washington 25, D. C.

copies sent to
MEMBERS

Exhibit E-1



2 November 1955

Dear Mr. Bartholomew:

At a meeting on 5 October 1955, the Commission of Fine Arts unanimously passed a resolution recommending that the General Services Administration eliminate the commercial parking concession in the Great Plaza, and initiate plans to have the area restored to its original purpose as a park. The General Services Administration has indicated in its reply dated 25 October 1955 that an appropriation will be sought in the next session of Congress to permit a partial solution to this problem. Copies of the Commission of Fine Arts' letter and the General Services Administration's reply are attached for your information.

Before any such request is made, the Commission hopes that the National Capital Planning Commission will review the previous plans for the development of the Great Plaza and advise us of your views regarding the practical and monumental considerations involved. The Commission of Fine Arts would be glad to participate in a joint study of this most important area of the National Capital.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Harland Bartholomew, Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission
7013 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Tolson, Mr. E. A. Tamm



THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOV 2 1955

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN *NOTED* *could nH*

1083 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 28, N.Y.

Founded 1825

Telephone ENright 9-4890

Officers

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President

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1st Vice President

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Asst. Corr. Secretary

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EDYS ROCKMORE DAVIS

FRITZ EICHENBERG

JOHN C. PELLEW

WILLIAM A. SMITH

Director

VERNON C. PORTER

October 31, 1955

Mr. David E. Finley
Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

As you have doubtless heard from Mr. Wilson, during your absence in Europe the Post Office Department authorized Mr. Enrico Arno, recommended by the Committee of the National Academy of Design, to design the Fort Ticonderoga Commemorative Stamp. Although the work was done on very short notice, the stamp was well received.

After a preliminary meeting with Mr. Fellers, Director, Division of Philately, of the Post Office Department, in New York, Mr. Robertson, the Assistant Postmaster General, has authorized our Committee to select artists for four other stamps, in accordance with his letter to me of October 24th, copy of which is enclosed.

We are having a meeting of our Committee on Wednesday November 2nd, to select the artists. While this is a gratifying result of the meeting of the Art Commission which we attended in Washington on June 8th, there still seems to be little likelihood that our Academy Committee will receive any official status as an advisory body, from the Post Office Department. Mr. Wilson is familiar with the difficulties in this regard.

Have you any suggestions as to what could be done? If official recognition by the Post Office Department is impracticable, could our Committee not be recognized in some way by the Art Commission.

With kind regards,

LGW:MR

cc Messrs. Fiene,
Kent, de Francisci,
and Eichenberg

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence Grant White
La wrence Grant White, P.N.A.



RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOV 21 1955

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN

1083 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 28, N. Y.

Founded 1825

Telephone ENright 9-4880

NOTED *Postage Stamp*

Officers

ICE GRANT WHITE
President

November 18, 1955.

LIOT CLARK
Vice President

ARL GRUPPE
Vice President

RNEST FIENE
Responding Secretary

ORMAN KENT
Recording Secretary

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S ROCKMORE DAVIS

ITZ EICHENBERG

HN C. PELLEW

LLIAM A. SMITH

Director

RNON C. PORTER

Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington, D.C.

Re: Stamps

Dear Mr. Finley:

I tried to reach you by telephone but both you and Mr. Wilson were unfortunately in a meeting.

Mr. Robertson, Assistant to Postmaster General, sent you a copy of his letter to me of November 7th, in which he stated that he assumed we had the approval of the Art Commission. I am enclosing herewith a copy of my reply to that letter for your information.

Our Committee is somewhat discouraged. Cleland and Ruzicka are, in our opinion, the two very best designers available. They are both very busy and are not interested in the fees; but are both very much interested, as we are, in trying to improve the design of United States stamps. I feel sure they would both hit the ceiling if we suggested that they should submit designs on a contingency basis.

Perhaps you will be kind enough to write a letter supporting our position. Needless to say, anything you can do to get our Committee officially under your wing, would be greatly appreciated.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

LGW EB

Lawrence Grant White

cc Messrs. N. Kent
E. Fiene
de Francisci
Eichenberg

Exhibit F1

Sent to members.

November 22, 1955

Dear Mr. White:

I have just spoken to Assistant Postmaster General Albert J. Robertson regarding your letters of October 31st and November 18th, in both of which you enclosed copies of correspondence between you and Mr. Robertson with reference to the design of four commemorative stamps for the Alamo, Mount Vernon, Monticello, and Independence Hall. Mr. Robertson told me that he is most anxious to have your artists design the four stamps in question and to establish some continuing procedure for utilizing the best talent this country offers for this purpose. Employment of individual artists through the good offices of organizations such as the National Academy of Design seems at the moment to be the most expedient method to accomplish this aim.

He informs me that \$500 is the largest sum the Department can pay without going into the time-consuming process of taking bids for individual stamps. The short lapse of time between the creation of the design and the production of the stamp precludes long negotiations. You are familiar with the production of the Ticonderoga stamp which was an example of how quickly such matters must move.

I can understand the desire on the part of the Academy for some recognition of the valuable work which your Advisory Council on Stamps has been giving to the Post Office Department. It does not seem possible, however, for the Post Office Department to work out an official status for your Council. If such a status were given to one organization, it would probably arouse demands on the part of other organizations for similar treatment. The artists, who design the stamp, do get such recognition in news releases for their creative work in designing the stamps. This, after all, is the important thing; and the other important element in the situation is the production of United States Postage Stamps of good quality by competent

Mr. Lawrence Grant White
Page 2

November 22, 1955

artists. Mr. Arno, the designer of the Ticonderoga stamp, and the Advisory Council on Stamps of the National Academy of Design both received recognition in the news releases for their parts in the design of the stamp. I hope there will be more work of this kind available for artists and that the Academy can be the instrument for recommending qualified artists for this purpose.

Mr. Robertson is anxious to have Mr. Rusicka and Mr. Cleland submit sketches at the earliest possible moment, and I hope you will encourage them to do so. Mr. Wilson, Secretary of the Commission of Fine Arts, will be glad to work with you and them on this matter.

I would like to express my own thanks to you and to the Academy for the splendid cooperation which you are giving to the Post Office Department. It will, I feel sure, result in great improvement in our postage stamps.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Lawrence Grant White
President
National Academy of Design
1083 Fifth Avenue
New York 28, New York

DEF/m

7 December 1955

Mr. William Holabird
Holabird, Root and Burgee
1125-17th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Holabird:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts were happy to meet with you, Mr. Bernard H. Bradley, of your office, and Mr. Robert Sutphin, Member of the Building Committee, Veterans of Foreign Wars, at the meeting on 9 November 1955, and to discuss with you the design of the proposed headquarters building of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, on a site at 315-327 First Street, Northeast. The illustrated brochure which you kindly supplied each of the members previous to the meeting greatly facilitated their study of the problem.

The design of the building was approved. As you will recall, suggestions were made to raise the height of the first floor to create a more monumental appearance, and to restudy the retaining wall and planting features in front of the building. It is hoped that it will be feasible to incorporate these suggestions into the final drawings. Resubmission of the sketches for the consideration by the Commission before proceeding to the working-drawing stage will not be necessary.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

